



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY



Press Release

Dated: June 15, 2004

ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION OF REGISTRY VIOLATIONS INCREASES

The Connecticut State Police Sex Offender Registry reports an increase in the number of arrests of registered sex offenders who are in violation of their registry requirements during this past year. Sgt. Sam Izzarelli Executive Officer reports that since April of 2003 the Sex Offender Registry Unit has been actively working on enforcement initiatives with local police departments to increase the arrests for registry violations. Over the last 14 months this initiative has caused over 300 Investigative Reports to be forwarded to local law enforcement agencies for the preparation of arrest warrant applications.

Statewide, as many as 500 registered sex offenders were in violation for not returning address verification forms. The updated enforcement initiatives have streamlined reporting. The Sex Offender Registry Unit is working with a number of Local Police Agencies including Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, West Haven and Waterbury on enforcement for those registrants who fail to maintain their registry requirements. This initiative has increased the arrests of non-compliant registrants.

By state law, registrants are required to verify their address every 90 days. The registrants must return an address verification form to the Sex Offender Registry by mail within 10 days after such form was mailed to the registrant. Registrants are also required to notify the Sex Offender Registry within 5 days of changing their address. Failure to comply with registration requirements is punishable by a class "D" felony. The Sex Offender Registry is required by law to report these violations to the law enforcement agency where the registrant resides for enforcement action.

The Division of Criminal Justice has been fully supportive of the efforts of the Connecticut State Police and municipal police departments to vigorously enforce registration requirements. Chief State's Attorney Morano said "The Office of the Chief State's Attorney and all States Attorneys' will work closely with the law enforcement agencies to prosecute violations of Megan's Law requirements. So far, nearly two-thirds of the criminal cases filed, as a result of increased enforcement initiatives, have already resulted in convictions."

The initiative also included adding Connecticut to the list of states that are compliant with the National Sex Offender Registry requirements. All of Connecticut's 3,460 registered sex offenders have now been reported to the National Sex Offender Registry. If a registrant is stopped by a police officer anywhere in the country, the officer is advised that the individual is registered as a sex offender in Connecticut and is also advised of the registrant's address and registry status.

On May 30, 2004, a Maryland Sheriff with the Harford County Sheriff's Office in Edgewood, Maryland stopped Gregory Allen McCants during a motor vehicle stop. A check through NCIC showed that McCants was a registered sex offender in Connecticut and was in violation with the Connecticut Sex Offender Registry. An investigation showed that McCants had moved to Maryland and had not reported a change of his address to the Connecticut Registry as required by law.

The public is urged to contact the Sex Offender Registry Unit if they have information on a registered sex offender that differs from the information on the registry website. Over eight and a half million people have logged onto the Connecticut Sex Offender Registry Website since it was re-opened to the public on March 31, 2003. Anyone who has questions regarding the registration of sex offenders in Connecticut or have found information on the sex offender website that appears to be incorrect, is asked to contact the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police, Sex Offender Registry Unit at P.O. Box 2794, Middletown, CT 06457-9294 or by phone at 860-685-8060.

To access the Connecticut Sex Offender Registry Website:
www.state.ct.us/dps

"Any person who uses information in this registry to injure, harass or commit a criminal act against any person included in the registry or any other person is subject to criminal prosecution."